

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 7-9 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1, 3 and 7-10 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by the Kudo reference (US Patent Application Pub. No. 2005/0225652). Claims 5 and 6 has been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable based on the Kudo reference. Finally, claims 2 and 4 have also been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) based on the latter reference taken with the Ejima reference (US Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0008765). With respect to applicant's claims, as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states on page 2 of the Action that the "claim language does not specifically require that the operation member itself is automatically forced to be suppressed to a third position different from each of the first and second position when said operation member is not operated by a user." Applicant has now amended each of independent claims 1 and 7-9 to recite that the "operation member . . . further itself is automatically forced to be suppressed to a third position different from each of the first position and the second position when said operation member is not operated by a user."

With this amendment of independent claims 1 and 7-9 such claims, and their respective dependent claims, are now believed to patentably distinguish over the Kudo reference. The cited Ejima reference fails to add anything to the Kudo reference to change this conclusion. Applicant's amended claims thus patentably distinguish over both these references.

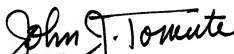
In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims and passage

of same and this application to issue is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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